

In Rev. Rapp's own words....
(taken from his Ministerial Profile)

In learning Jesus' way of love in United Church of Christ congregations since childhood, in experiencing firsthand the difference a loving relationship with God has made throughout my life, and in working side by side with ordained and lay people alike, my faith and experience in ministry has taught me not to push myself into the spotlight for God's glory but to reflect that Light of Love by helping others first. This is my passion in ministry...

Here are some things I enjoy in ministry...

I enjoy preaching and leading worship. Thoughtful, creative worship planning and biblically sound, relevant preaching are just as important to me as they are to every person in the pew.

I take church administration seriously. I see myself as a servant-leader of day-to-day operations, accountable to the governing board.

I make a point of trying new things in church. When I receive inspiration for a new idea, I've learned to trust my intuition and follow it.

Finally, I enjoy building up the fellowship in love. When the congregation gets together for worship, learning, service, or just plan fun, I love being there.

**Message from the
Search Committee....**

When we first read Rev. James Rapp's Pastoral Profile back in March, we all said "WOW." When we met Jim in person in May, we all said "WOW." From that time on Rev. Jim was the benchmark for all of the 69 Profiles we read. Some came close, and we carefully and prayerfully followed through with several of these candidates. But we always came back to Rev. Jim.

We were endeared to Jim right away by his warmth, his sense of humor, his open and friendly manner, his "let's-get-it-done" attitude, and most of all his obvious, strong faith and love of God and all the people of God.

Of all the candidates we interviewed, Jim impressed us the most with his knowledge of and interest in Church of the Isles. He had done his homework, and the more he got to know us and our church, the more he felt that this is where he was meant to be.

We, as a Committee, feel very blessed that God has lead us to Rev. Jim – a person of real faith, with a caring and positive attitude, and a gift for pastoral ministry. Please join us in welcoming him into our fellowship of faith on November 7th and 8th. The Search Committee has already started this faith journey with Rev. Jim, and we know that all of the members and friends of Church of the Isles will be blessed by continuing this journey far into the future.

Yours with Christ,

Marty Synnott
Walt Shurden
Don Finkenstadt
Rod Snedeker
Dorothy Kearney

Valerie Courtney
Cris Plumlee
Virginia Forster
Skip Ertz

The Reverend
James D. Rapp



The Church of the Isles
United Church of Christ
Pastoral Search Committee

has unanimously selected

The Reverend James D. Rapp

as our candidate for Pastor
of our church
and invites you to meet him on

November 7 and 8, 2009

About Rev. Rapp....

Rev. Jim Rapp is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ who has helped churches in Florida for over 20 years. He comes to us from Brevard County where he has resided since 1993. He received his Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary in 1988 and served as the Associate Minister of United Church of Marco Island (1988-1993), Pastor of Hope UCC, Rockledge (1993-1998), and Associate Pastor of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Melbourne (2004-2006). Between the latter churches, Pastor Rapp took a break from parish ministry and worked in retail management—selling men's clothing and fine jewelry. Rev. Jim is also trained in the important work of interim ministry and helped Jensen Beach Community Church UCC (2006-2008) and First United UCC, Tampa (2009) in that capacity. As a pastor, his passions lie in good worship, effective church administration, regular pastoral visitation, church growth results, and connectedness to the UCC.

Jim hails from Evansville, Indiana, where he was baptized, confirmed, and ordained at Bethlehem UCC. The youngest son of a college music professor, he was raised in a musical family and enjoys singing in community chorus' to this day. He is a 48 year old single parent of two teenagers: 19 year old Renae is a sophomore at Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri, studying theater; 16 year old Evan is a junior in high school who doesn't let his autism get in the way of his love for amusement parks and all things pop culture. Jim's hobbies include golf, ballroom dancing, the Chicago Cubs, good movies, and as many travel vacations as possible.

Message to COTI from Rev. Rapp....

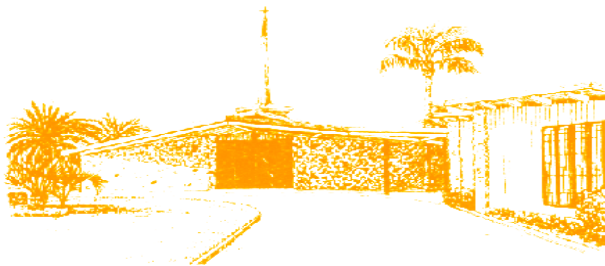
"I'm filled with enthusiasm when I consider answering God's call to serve The Church of the Isles as her pastor. The church is a good one—full of faithful people with the building blocks for growth in place. I'm looking forward to living in your community and working side-by-side with you in worship, ministry, and fellowship. It's going to be blessed partnership—I'm sure of it!"

Please join us:

Saturday, November 7
for a
Reception 10 am - 12 noon
Pilgrim Hall

Sunday, November 8
Worship 10 a.m.

Congregational Meeting to follow.



What others have told us about Rev. Rapp....

"Sunday services are conducted with a spirit of joy and praise. The children instantly felt comfortable gathering around Rev. Rapp.... and the lessons he taught were done with such imagination and in a unique style that engaged the whole congregation."

"He has a wonderful sense of humor and an awareness of what was needed in the life of our church"

"His integrity and personal faith are evident through his ministry to the congregation during Sunday morning services, at our leadership meetings and social events."

"His sense of humor and light heartedness has turned a lot of frowns into smiles"

"Rev. Rapp served our congregation with such a genuine love and delight that was truly infectious."

"He believes in good communication among members, listens to other's ideas with an open mind, takes suggestions and criticisms with grace and is truly a team player."

"He has the same relaxed at-ease manor with the youngest of children to the most elderly of our congregation."

"Jim's personal faith, commitment to ministry, and leadership abilities would be a true blessing to wherever he may be called."